



Headteacher's Message

On Wednesday we had our annual PTA AGM. It was lovely to see some new faces from Year R who brought along some very interesting ideas. It was great to see some familiar faces too!

Amanda Law (mother of Lexi) was voted in as the PTA Chair, with Sam Ellis (mother of Ben) as Treasurer and Emma Stevenson (mother of Dexter) as Secretary. Thank you very much to you all for taking up the key posts and I am very confident that this will be another very successful fundraising year.

During the AGM I shared two charities that parents had proposed for the school 's support in the next two years which was fully supported by our PTA team. The charities are Make a Wish Foundation and the Little Roo Neonatal Fund. There may also be some smaller ad-hoc fundraisers for other charities throughout the year. If you would like us to support one please let us know.

The Make a Wish Foundation grant wishes to enrich the lives of children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions.

Whether it is starring in their own films, walking with dinosaurs, meeting a celebrity hero; their wishes are varied, personal and, most importantly, magical.

These wishes build incredible memories, build confidence and bring happiness; providing respite from the daily struggles that come with a life-threatening condition.

In the past twenty years the care of babies born very early, or with unexpected problems, has improved immensely, with great improvements in survival and outlook. The Little Roo Neonatal Unit at St Peter's Hospital was set up specifically to help with these tiny babies.

They are the only hospital in Surrey with appropriate staff, equipment, skills and experience to provide this highest level of intensive care for the smallest and sickest newborn babies. Some of the tiniest babies are transferred from the Royal Surrey Hospital and Frimley Park to this unit. So whilst this charity is not on our doorstep, it does provide a vital service to our local neonatal units.

Please keep an eye out in future newsletters for details about our fundraising activities.

Have a nice weekend.

Mrs Cawson, Headteacher

Newsletter

Our next edition will be issued on **20th October**. Copies of our newsletter can be found on our website: www.walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk or in the school reception area.

Coming into School

Our Year One and Year Two children are doing really well coming into school on their own in the mornings and we would like to encourage them to continue with this, as it helps them to develop their independence and allows us to settle them more quickly in class.

However, there are still a few parents coming in daily and this is upsetting some of our children who have come in by themselves. Please could you say goodbye to your child at the door in the morning and if you have a message for the class teacher or the office, please leave it with the staff member manning the door. If your child is upset, they will calm down much quicker once they are in school and there are a lot of staff around to support them.

Very soon we would like to start our Year R children coming in on their own. We have set up a sticker chart for them in their classrooms and we will be giving them lots of praise when they do come in by themselves. You would be surprised how the promise of a sticker will send them running into school by themselves! If you feel your child still needs you in the morning please speak to the class teacher.

Please give your child lots of encouragement to do this, as will we. This is good preparation for Junior School as parents are not allowed to enter their school at all.

Just to remind you that if you do need to come into school with your child in the morning, you will need to leave via the door leading onto the playground. This new procedure has been put in place to improve our safeguarding procedures and we would ask that it is adhered to at all times for the safety of all of our children.

School Lunches

Week commencing **9th October** we will be on **Week 1** of the dinner menu.

Walsh Memorial Newsletter

Issue 3

9 October 2017

Harvest Festival Collection

Thank you very much to everyone who gave a donation for Christian Aid. We are delighted to tell you that we raised £223.01 which we will be sending off to Christian Aid shortly.

Year R Phonics Briefing

Parents of Year R children are invited to a Phonics Briefing in school on **18th October at 2.30pm**. If you are interested in attending, please come to the office reception at this time.

If you are unable to find someone to look after pre-school children you are welcome to bring them along.

Please remember that there is no parental parking anywhere on the school site and please park considerately if you need to park in the surrounding area.

Pushchairs are not permitted in school due to health and safety reasons so please leave them outside reception.

Year One Autumn Day

On **Thursday 2nd November**, our Year One children will be celebrating Autumn Day. On this day they are welcome to come into school dressed in coloured clothes that they believe best represent autumn, such as reds, oranges and browns.

No Halloween costumes please and children should wear clothes that are suitable for a normal school day. If your child does not want to wear autumnal clothing, please could they wear their normal school uniform. Thank you.

Book Bags

Please could you ensure that your child's book bags has only have one small key ring on it as there is only limited space in the book bag drawers. Thank you!

Year R Storytime Arrangements

This evening at 6pm, the children from Silver and Gold Classes are invited to come into school dressed in their pyjamas to hear a story with their class teacher before bedtime. The session will end at 6.30pm.

Please wait in the reception area where you will be met by your child's class teacher and taken down to the classroom.

Children are welcome to bring a nice pillow to sit on or a cosy blanket to wrap up in whilst they read the story.

Younger siblings are welcome, as are siblings that come to our school. Parents must accompany their child and stay with them for the duration of the event.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Chelsea Football Club (External provider)

Fee paying club—club full. Remaining sessions on 9th and 16th October from 3-4pm.

C&S Multi Sports (External Provider)

Fee paying club with team games and sports. Spaces are available and forms can be found in reception. Every week from Wednesday from 25th September to 29th November from 3-4pm.

Year One Sports Club (free by year group invitation)

Mrs Brett's Sports Club will run on 12th and 21st October. Year Two Sports Club will start after half term — a letter will be sent home shortly.

Puzzle Club (free by class invitation)

Sapphire Class Puzzle Club has now finished. This club is on class rotation for Year One and Two; next up is Emerald Class after half term.

Choir Club

Choir Club will not start up until after half term. A letter will be sent home in due course. Year One and Two only until the summer term.

Milk Bottle Tops

We would be grateful for donations for milk bottle tops which will be donated to a charity. All tops must be 'milk only' in any colour but they must not include foil inserts or stickers.

The bottle tops can be left inside school next to the staff entrance. Thank you for your support.

Year One Trip to the Fast Museum

A trip to the Fast Museum has been booked for 9th November. A letter has been sent home to parents.

We do need a few more parent helpers, particularly for Ruby Class (the afternoon session), so if you are able to help and you have a DBS check done with the school please let Mrs Thorn know. Thank you.

Flu Vaccination Forms

Just to remind parents that Flu Vaccination consent forms need to be returned to school *before* Tuesday 10th October. There are spare copies in the reception area if you need one.

Learning to Spell

Spelling, like talking, is a development process and accuracy will improve as children gain experience. Just as it takes a few years to develop fluent speech, children need time to develop spelling competence. They normally pass through five stages on their way to becoming conventional spellers:-

Pre-communicative stage

Children write down random letters to express meaning **RALS**. e.g. This is the equivalent to babies babbling when learning to talk.

Semi-phonetic stage

Children attempt to represent letter sound correspondence but major sounds are omitted eg **ctS** for carrots

Phonetic stage

Children represent all the sounds in words e.g. **sez** for says.

Transitional stage

Children start to rely more heavily on visual clues and make analogies with word patterns they already know e.g. **clime** for climb.

Mature stage

Correct spellings are used. Children can visualise words in their mind's eye have a good knowledge of word structure and a large body of known spellings.

Throughout these stages focus on the positive and give plenty of praise for progress.

In our next newsletter we will share with you some ideas on how to help your child with their spellings at home.

Supporting your child at home



Walsh Memorial Infant School

Christmas Shopping Evening

Thursday 16th November from 6-8pm

We will have on offer a wide variety of stalls including:

- Christmas decorations*
 - Jewellery stores*
 - Books*
 - Stocking fillers*
 - Beauty products and treatments*
 - Crafts, cards and wrapping paper*
- Plus many, many more!*

Come and join the fun! Everyone is welcome - bring family, friends and neighbours. Get ahead of the game and kick-start your Christmas Shopping!

There will be a craft table to keep children entertained so parents can shop in peace!

If you are interested in hosting a table please email

walshinfantspta@gmail.com



Walsh Memorial C of E Infant School,
Ash Street, Ash. GU12 6LT



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
	Autumn Term 1	
13th October	Story-Time for Year R Children	6.00pm-6.30pm
17th October	Year One Phonics Workshop—the National Phonics Screening Test	2.30pm
18th October	Year R Phonics Workshop	2.30pm
31st October	Flu Vaccinations (for children with signed consent forms)	
2nd November	Year One Autumn Day	
2nd November	PTA Meeting (school staff room) - all welcome	7.30pm
3rd November	Year Two Cake Sale	3.00pm
6th November	Parent Interviews—Early slots (more information to follow)	
9th November	Year One trip to the Fast Museum	
15th November	Parent Interviews—Late slots (more information to follow)	
16th November	PTA Christmas Shopping Evening	
21st November	Visiting Theatre in school (children only)	
5th December	Christmas Craft Club (more details to follow)	3pm
7th December	PTA Christmas Movie Night (more details to follow)	5pm
11th December	Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal (Grandparents only—more information to follow)	9.15am
12th December	Christmas Production for parents with pre-school children (more information will follow)	9.15am
13th December	Christmas Production—adults only (more information will follow)	9.15am
14th December	Christmas Production followed by Raffle—adults only (more information will follow)	1.30pm
18th December	Christmas Church Service (all year groups). More information to follow	2.00pm-3.00pm
20th December	School Christmas Dinner (details to follow)	

2017/2018 Inset Days (School closed to children)

30/10/2017, 04/06/2018, 23/07/2018

One further date to be determined.